now well within the statutory limit of 150 mg/NM3. Direct flow of ash slury into Nandira river was stopped. Presently, Ash Pond Lagoon II is being used. Order for Sewerage Treatment Plant has been placed by NTPC. Order for ash water recirculation system is likely to be placed by April, 2000.

Contract Labourers Working in NTPC Power and Thermal Stations

2251. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many contract labourers are working in NTPC power and thermal stations in the country for more than ten years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these contract labourers are not getting the statutory benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) does not keep the record of Contract Labour engaged by the contractor to whom NTPC has awarded the contract to carry out specific jobs. After a contract is awarded for carrying out certain jobs, contractor deployes the requisite workmen for carrying out the job. As and when the job is over or contract expires, the Contract Labour are redeployed/disengaged by the Contractor. NTPC has no role to play except to ensure that contractor meets all the statutory requirements like payment of wages, leave, holidays etc.

(b) All contractors who are awarded contract by NTPC are extending all statutory benefits to their employees. In addition, NTPC ensures the same by the following mechanism:

— Contract documents contain stipulation that it is obligatory on contractor to extend all statutory dues/benefits to his/her employees.

— Periodical inspection is carried out by NTPC executives to ensure the same.

— If any violation is found or reported, it is promptly rectified.

Hydro-Electric Capacity in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

†2252. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the hydro-electric capacity in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and whether Government have decided to launch these schemes as a far-reaching measures to help people to get rid of the costly electricity obtained from thermal;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.